

Typhoid fever was reported with about equal frequency in the different sections of the State with an almost uniform mortality of 5 per cent. Osler reported a mortality of 8 per cent. in eight hundred cases treated at Johns Hopkins. Malarial is much more frequent than typhoid in the eastern and central portions of the State, rare in the west. The mortality of malarial fever is practically nil with the exceptions of the rare cases of pernicious malarial seen in the extreme east.

Recent investigation has proved that malaria has been diagnosed in this country far more frequently than it exists. More quinine was used in 1880 than in 1890 and far more in 1890 than to-day. It was the custom in former years, and I regret to say still is with some intelligent practitioners, to regard almost all irregular forms of fever as either malarial pure and simple, or in some way influenced by paludism. There is no doubt that tuberculosis, typhoid fever and many forms of auto-infection have been repeatedly diagnosed and treated for malaria. When the fever disappeared with the patient under the influence of quinine it was regarded as a positive proof of the accuracy of the diagnosis, and when the fever continued it was maintained with equal certainty that on a certain class of malarial fevers quinine had no effect.

From 1885 to 1890 inclusive, a larger number of deaths was reported from malarial than from typhoid fever in the cities of New York, Brooklyn and Baltimore.

During the past five years deaths from malaria have been very infrequent in these cities, while the mortality from typhoid fever has increased. We would like to believe that this reduction in the mortality of malaria has been due to improvement in treatment or sanitation. Unfortunately it can be accounted for on no other hypothesis than that of an error in diagnosis in the earlier reports.

3. State frequency and character of eruption?

To this question only one observer answered "eruption in every case of typhoid." Three or four reported eruption in 50 per cent. of cases, quite a number answered 20 to 25 per cent. and others "seldom seen," "rare and indistinct," "very infrequent." There is no doubt that the characteristic rose colored eruption noted by Northern writers is frequently absent in otherwise typical cases of typhoid fever seen in North Carolina, and that in